

4 -0006

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 30, 1953

MEMORANDUM TO: THE DIRECTOR, CIA

Respectfully referred for your information and for any comments you might see fit to make. Thank you for your cooperation.

  
Milton B. Persons  
Special Assistant to the President

APR 27 1953  
P 9326

THE WHITE HOUSE

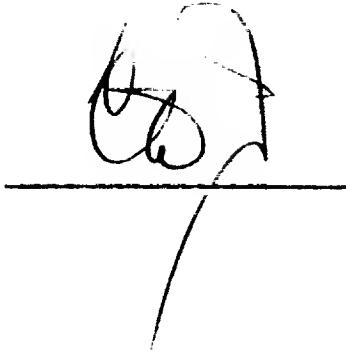
WASHINGTON

April 25, 1953

MEMORANDUM TO: General Wilton R. Persons  
FROM: C. E. Jackson

I hate to dump this back in your lap, but  
the attached is way outside the terms of  
reference of Bill Jackson's Committee.

I think that the appropriate people to see  
it are Allen Dulles and probably his new  
Deputy, Lt. General Cabell, who will know  
which people in the Pentagon to take it  
up with.



RALPH W. POWERS

APR 11 1953

ASSOCIATE:  
GEORGE B. GIFFORD, JR.ATTORNEY AT LAW  
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

APPLETON 7 8700

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL WILTON PERSONS,  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT:

**Subject:** Proposal that the Eisenhower Administration undertake a top-level study of the competency and efficiency of the military and civilian intelligence and counter intelligence organizations of the United States, and the feasibility of unification among these organizations.

Attached is a memorandum for President Eisenhower on this subject which I am submitting on behalf of the National Counter Intelligence Corps Association, a non-political alumni group of some 5,000 veterans of the Army Counter Intelligence Corps. The Association has been recommending a study of this sort since 1948 without success. It seems to us that the national security requires that at not too remote intervals we conduct a study of this character to determine whether or not the country is getting the maximum protection from its military and civilian intelligence and counter intelligence agencies, and whether or not these agencies are coordinating their work effectively and performing it not only efficiently but also with a minimum of unnecessary duplication and expense. Our Association stands ready to play its part fully in any such study and will be glad to furnish expert personnel who we believe could make a real contribution.

One proposal which we believe deserves particularly careful consideration from the standpoint both of greater efficiency and economy is the unification (or integration) of the now separate operating counter intelligence organizations of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Based on our past experience, we think that a careful study by unbiased experts will reveal a good deal of unnecessary duplication in the present setup in this respect.

Will you be good enough to see that the attached memorandum is placed in the President's hands.



Chairman,  
National Policy Committee,  
National Counter Intelligence  
Corps Association

April 9, 1953

RALPH W. POWERS

ASSOCIATE:  
GEORGE B. GIFFORD, JR.ATTORNEY AT LAW  
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

APPLETON 7-8700

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Mr. President:

I am submitting this memorandum to you in my capacity as chairman of the National Policy Committee of the National Counter Intelligence Corps Association. The Association (the only one of its kind) is an alumni group of some 5,000 veterans of the Army Counter Intelligence Corps which, as you know, is the Army organization charged with the job of counter espionage, counter sabotage, and counter subversion. The Association is entirely non-political in character.

The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend to you on behalf of the Association that your Administration undertake a serious and objective study of the adequacy and competency of the military and civilian intelligence and counter intelligence organizations of the United States to determine the extent to which they are meeting the important responsibilities which have been assigned to them, the extent to which they are ready to meet greater responsibilities which would devolve on them in the event of war, the extent to which they are coordinating their work and performing it efficiently and with a minimum of unnecessary duplication and expense, and the extent to which unification of these organizations may be feasible.

Such a study should, we believe, be made primarily by persons who are not currently members of the nation's intelligence and counter intelligence organizations. The study should naturally be made by highly qualified persons

RALPH W. POWERS  
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

- 2 -

and should be carried on in well-guarded secrecy. But the agencies under scrutiny must not be permitted to raise the bar of "secrecy" and "security" to prevent or obstruct searching analyses of their ability and competency to perform effectively and efficiently their assigned functions.

At its Chicago Convention in August 1948, the National Counter Intelligence Corps Association unanimously adopted the so-called Spingarn Resolution incorporating the above recommendation, together with certain substantive recommendations for improving the military counter intelligence organizations of the United States. The committee of which I am chairman was set up at that time to implement these recommendations. At its Baltimore Convention in August 1952, the Association again unanimously endorsed its previous recommendations in this field. Incidentally, you were good enough to send a personal telegram of greetings to our Baltimore Convention last year in which, among other things, you requested to be furnished with a transcript of the minutes of the convention. Your predecessor, President Truman, also sent a message of greetings to the convention.

In 1948 the Association's recommendations were presented to the Joint Chiefs of Staff which set up a special staff subcommittee to consider them. This subcommittee held a hearing at which we testified. On December 22, 1953,  
<sup>52</sup>  
General J. Lawton Collins, Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army, advised a member of our Board of Governors (who is also a member of this committee) that the

RALPH W. POWERS  
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

- 3 -

Association's recommendations had played a part in effecting several constructive improvements in our military counter intelligence setup.

The following is quoted from General Collins' letter of December 22, 1952, on this matter:

"Among these ideas advanced by you in your resolutions, the following--either in whole or in part--are now in effect:

Establishment of a Central CIC file.  
Authority for civilian status of CIC personnel  
Improvement of the CIC T/O&E  
Improvement of the CIC training program

"This progress is the result of considerable research, planning, and implementation on the part of the Counter Intelligence Corps. The fact that they coincide with many features outlined in your resolutions of 1948 is a tribute to the sound thinking of both yourself and the staff of the Counter Intelligence Corps Center."

I note, however, that the study which we are recommending would be much broader than the field of the Army Counter Intelligence Corps. It would cover the whole field of intelligence and counter intelligence both military and civilian.

If you decide to have such a study made, our Association stands ready to play its part fully and will be glad to furnish expert personnel whom, it is believed, could make a real contribution to any such study.

One proposal which we believe deserves particularly careful consideration from the standpoint of both greater efficiency and economy is the unification (or integration) of the now separate operative counter intelligence organizations of the

RALPH W. POWERS  
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

- 4 -

Army, Navy, and Air Force. We think that a careful study by unbiased experts will reveal a good deal of unnecessary duplication in the present setup in this respect.

I am attaching a paper prepared in April 1948 by a member of this committee which was the basis for the adoption by our Association that year, and again in 1952, of the recommendations and the request for a study referred to above.

With the beginning of a new Administration, and with the probability that there will be many new officials in charge of our military and civilian intelligence and counter intelligence activities, this seems to be a particularly appropriate time to launch the study suggested--a study which, in any event, should be undertaken periodically at not too remote intervals.

Our Association believes that military and civilian intelligence and counter intelligence functions are a job for highly trained professionals and not for amateurs, however well intentioned, or for headline hunters or political opportunists who seek to make capital of highly publicized but often scantly documented charges. We recognize that this delicate and important field is one for the surgeon's scalpel rather than the butcher's cleaver.

We also fully appreciate that in this area considerations of national security must be balanced against the individual rights which have made our country great, and that the fundamental problem is to strike a wise balance between these sometimes apparently conflicting considerations in a nation and world filled with the

RALPH W. POWERS  
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

- 5 -

insecurities created by the great tensions of our times.

We are also fully aware that our people expect their security officers (like their police), to be not only competent and efficient but also honest and fair, and that they will not tolerate any MVD or Gestapo in the United States. We know that the purpose of all our security measures is to protect our liberty, and that to destroy liberty in the name of security would be to accomplish less than nothing. We are confident that the requirements of both security and liberty can be reconciled by wise measures administered by wise men. We feel strongly that our Government must be vigilant to make sure that its measures in this field and the men who administer them are wise. The study we are recommending would represent an exercise of that vigilance.

I had the honor to serve under you in the Mediterranean Theater during the last war (in 1943). In 1944 and 1945, I was Chief of the Counter Intelligence Corps for the Mediterranean Theater, and in 1945 and the first part of 1946 I was Chief of the Counter Intelligence Corps in Austria.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Chairman,  
National Policy Committee,  
National Counter Intelligence  
Corps Association

April 9, 1953